



September 2022

# Maternal & Infant Health

A Public Health Fact Sheet from the Chatham County Public Health Department

## Introduction

This short fact sheet provides data on maternal and infant health indicators and outcomes, a topic of concern in Chatham County. The numbers show that Chatham County fares worse in this area than both North Carolina and the United States as a whole, and racial/ethnic minorities -- particularly Black or African American and Hispanic/Latinx communities -- are disproportionately affected in outcomes such as infant mortality and low birthweights. These disparities have led to the creation of the [EMBRACe](#) (Equity for Moms and Babies Realized Across Chatham) project as part of the Chatham County Public Health Department and community's commitment to change these outcomes.

Most of the data presented in this report was gathered for the 2021 Chatham County Community Assessment, which details health outcomes and information on other topics. The Assessment, past Assessments, and other reports can be found online at the Chatham County website at [www.chathamcountync.gov/healthreports](http://www.chathamcountync.gov/healthreports).

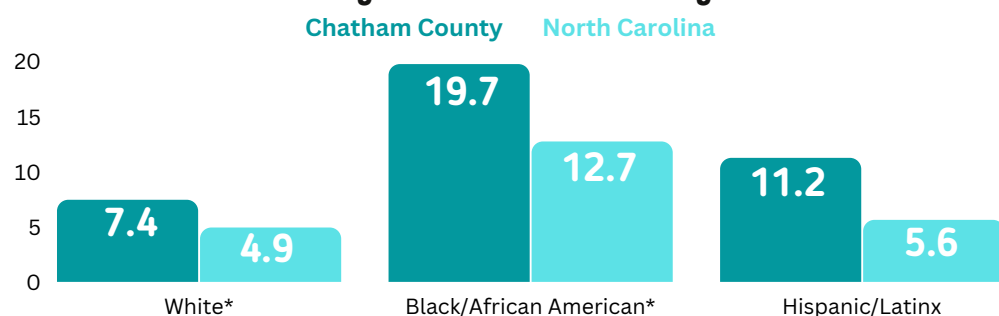
## Infant Mortality

Infant mortality is a rate that represents the number of infant deaths before their birthday per 1,000 live births among the same population. Infant mortality rates in Chatham County fluctuated between 2016 and 2020, as is typical with a small sample size. However, over that time period, the county registered a higher infant mortality rate than both North Carolina and the United States.

### Infant Mortality Rate by Area, 2016-2020

Area	Rate (per 1,000 live births)
Chatham County	9.4
North Carolina	7.0
United States	5.7

### Infant Mortality Rate in Chatham County, 2016-2020



\*non-Hispanic/Latinx

In addition to being generally higher than the state and country, disparities in infant mortality also exist in Chatham County. From 2016-2020, the infant mortality rate for white residents was lower than that of Black or African American and Hispanic/Latinx residents, both in the county and the state.

Sources: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, NC State Center for Health Statistics

## Maternal Mortality

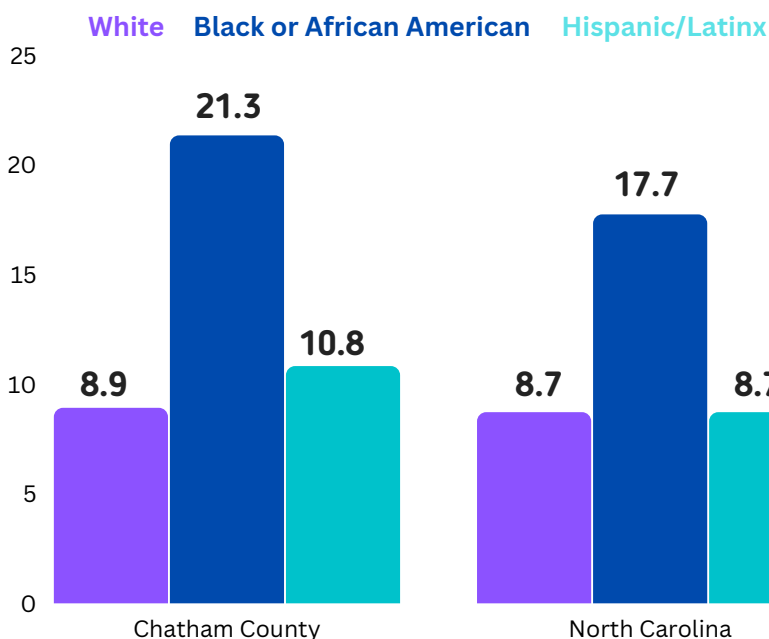
A maternal death is defined as the death of a woman while pregnant or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy, irrespective of the duration and the site of the pregnancy, from any cause related to or aggravated by the pregnancy or its management, but not from accidental or incidental causes. **National data** (all rates per 100,000 live births) is shown on the **right**. However, North Carolina and Chatham County data has not been reported consistently for several years. The most recent data indicates that North Carolina's maternal mortality rate for 2019 was 21.9 per 100,000 live births, but no breakdown by race/ethnicity was available.

### Maternal Mortality Rate in the United States by Race/Ethnicity, 2018-2020

Year	Overall	White	Black/African American	Hispanic/Latinx
2018	17.4	14.9	37.3	11.8
2019	20.1	17.9	44.0	12.6
2020	23.8	19.1	55.3	18.2

Sources: Hoyert DL. Maternal Mortality Rates in the United States, 2020. National Center for Health Statistics. <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/hestat/maternal-mortality/2020/E-stat-Maternal-Mortality-Rates-2022.pdf>. Published February 2022. Accessed September 14, 2022. Maternal Mortality. America's Health Rankings. United Health Foundation. [https://www.americashealthrankings.org/explore/health-of-women-and-children/measure/maternal\\_mortality\\_b/state/NC?edition-year=2021](https://www.americashealthrankings.org/explore/health-of-women-and-children/measure/maternal_mortality_b/state/NC?edition-year=2021). Accessed September 26, 2022.

## Percent of Babies Born with Low/Very Low Birthweight, 2016-2020



## Low/Very Low Birthweight

When a baby is born with a low (less than 2,500 grams, or 5 pounds, 8 ounces) or very low (less than 1,500 grams, or nearly 3 pounds, 5 ounces) birthweight, they are at an increased risk of complications and may have a harder time eating, gaining weight, and fighting off infection. Nearly all low birthweight babies need specialized care once born. Low birthweight was the second-leading cause of infant death in the United States in 2019 and 2020.

Black or African American babies, both in Chatham County and North Carolina, are disproportionately affected with low or very low birthweight, with Chatham County percentages higher than state numbers.

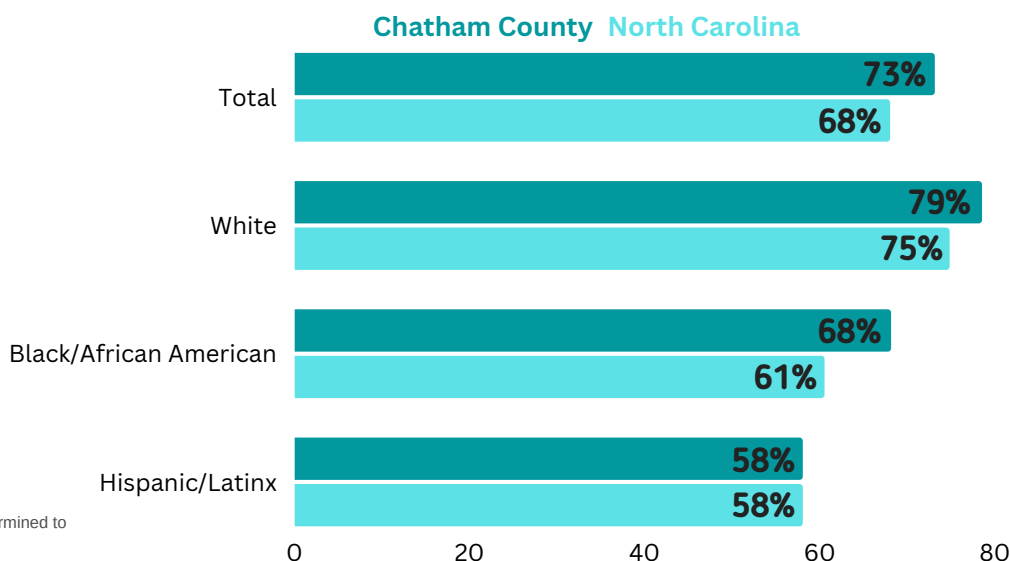
Source: 2016-2020 North Carolina Resident Live Births by County of Residence: Number and Percent of Low (< 2500 grams) and Very Low (< 1500 grams) Weight Births by Race and Ethnicity. NC State Center for Health Statistics. <https://schs.dph.ncdhhs.gov/data/databook/CD6A-B-LBWVLBW-ByRace.html>. Accessed September 14, 2022.  
Murphy SL, Kochanek KD, Xu JQ, Arias E. Mortality in the United States, 2020. NCHS Data Brief, no 427. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. <https://dx.doi.org/10.15620/cdc.112079>. Published December 21, 2021. Accessed September 14, 2022.

## Prenatal Care

Receiving timely prenatal care can make all the difference in the life of a mother and baby. According to NC Child, "studies show that early prenatal care has the greatest impact on teens, single women, and women of color - all of whom are at higher risk for complications during pregnancy." Chatham County tends to fare better than North Carolina in this area. Marginalized communities, particularly Hispanic/Latina mothers, receive care at a notably lower percentage than the White, non-Hispanic/Latina population in both Chatham County and North Carolina.

This rate is calculated by measuring the percentage of women who were determined to have received prenatal care during the first trimester of their pregnancy.  
Source: 2021 County Data Dashboard. NC Child. <https://ncchild.org/what-we-do/insights/data/2021county-data-cards/>. Accessed September 14, 2022.

## Percent of Mothers Receiving Prenatal Care in the First Trimester of Pregnancy, 2021



## Resources

### Piedmont Health Services

With two locations in Chatham County, PHS offers women's health, WIC services, and prenatal care to Chatham County residents with sliding scale fees, regardless of insurance status.

Moncure: 7228 Pittsboro-Moncure Road  
(919) 542-4991

Siler City: 224 S. 10th Ave.  
(919) 663-1744

### Newborn Postpartum Home Visiting Program Chatham County Public Health Department

- Home visit from a public health nurse, including a health assessment for mother and newborn
- Social support and educational resources
- Discuss family planning options and answer questions about baby's care
- Information on immunizations, breast and formula feeding, safe sleep, and more

No-cost program for Chatham County mothers and newborns! Call (919) 742-5641 to learn more and schedule a visit today.



### For more information, or if you have questions, contact:

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